

## Executive Summary

The objectives of the Franklin County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan was to provide Franklin County residents, the public and private organizations with assistance and recommendations to mitigate wildfire risk and hazard vulnerability presented by wildfires within Franklin County. These objectives were reached by public and official participants identifying and documenting areas of high and medium risk to wildfire hazards. Actions identified to decrease wildfire risk and hazards within Franklin County are focused on public safety, emergency services, County infrastructure, natural resources, and property protection.

The Franklin County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan will be linked to the Idaho State Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan. The FEMA Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Worksheet was used for plan formulation, and target dates. Development and review of the plan was accomplished by the Franklin County Wildland Fire Mitigation Planning Group with participation from Federal, State, and County agencies and private citizens.

Organizational structure of the Franklin County Wildland Fire Mitigation Planning Group was managed under a modified Incident Command System (ICS). The use of ICS provided optimal information exchange, hazard identification and mitigation recommendation development. Public participation was accomplished through: public workshops; the distribution of questionnaires regarding wildfire concerns and suggestions; participation by homeowners; and utilization of contractor-collected public input.

The priorities of the plan were developed by the Franklin County Wildland Fire Mitigation Planning Group and are standard priorities for most risk assessments, hazard reduction activities and wildfire incidents. Those priorities were:

1. **Protection of Life:** Identify and provide mitigation recommendations for areas of high wildfire risks that are in or adjacent to homes and communities, and improve critical county infrastructure facilities.
2. **Protection of Property:** Identify and provide mitigation recommendations for properties of moderate and high wildfire risk. Increase public awareness through education, training and information sharing, addressing wildfire risks and mitigation measures.
3. **Protection of Resources & Values:** Identify resources and values that are at risk to wildfires and implement natural resource planning to protect these resources. Include protection and mitigation of at-risk watersheds, vegetation, fish, and wildlife; maintain soil stability; protect scenic, historical, and cultural resources.

Within these priorities is the need to:

- **Improve Wildfire Emergency Services:** Improve county infrastructure and wildfire emergency service planning, training, communications, and equipment.
- **Increase Public Awareness of Wildfire Prevention:** Increase public awareness of Firewise practices and wildfire prevention through education, training and information sharing.
- **Improve Partnerships for Implementation:** Utilize partnerships currently established and develop additional participation with State, Federal, and private organizations.

The following summary table (Table 1) presents the hazards, in priority order based on the impact on the plan objectives, and the mitigation goal to alleviate the hazard. Each mitigation goal also presents the target dates for completion of the goal and an estimated cost for all the implementation ideas for achieving the goal.

The implementation ideas listed provide sources and resources for the implementation of the goal. These may include various potential grant or funding sources and organizations that could provide expertise or assistance for goal implementation.

As the administrators of the Franklin County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners is the authority and has the responsibility to adopt the plan.

The plan maintenance section includes recommendations for annual plan review and monitoring. A bi-annual re-evaluation of priorities for action items and progress is also recommended. A total plan revision should be conducted every five years. This plan maintenance will be directed by the Franklin County Commissioners, and coordinated with the Franklin County Disaster Services Specialist and the Franklin County Fire District. In addition, participation will be needed by various positions represented in the Franklin County Wildland Fire Mitigation Group, coupled with public input.

An economic analysis template/direction examining potential loss as a result of wildfires in Franklin County is provided in the appendix. Though total potential loss to catastrophic wildfires is variable by year, the cost effectiveness of fuel treatments, County infrastructure improvements, and emergency wildfire services improvements will provide benefits to the primary objectives: protection of life and property.

**Table 1 - Hazard/Mitigation Summary**

Hazard			Mitigation Strategies for Goal Implementation			
Rating			Description	Goals and Action Items	Target Date	\$ Costs Thousand
Life	Prop	Res				
High	High	High	1. Franklin County's subdivisions & homeowners in High Risk Areas are without emergency wildfire plans or other emergency plans in place.	<u>Goal 1:</u> Develop County Fire-Emergency Mobilization Plan and County/Interagency Communications Plan with landowners and cooperators in Franklin County and develop subdivision and/or homeowners' wildfire and other emergency operations plan(s) as requested. 1. Develop escape routes for the Maple Creek, Cub River (including Willow Flats & Scout Camp), Cotton Wood Creek, Oneida Narrows, Oxford, and Dayton areas. (See Goal 8, for GPS Equipment) that: 1) meet NFPA standards and 2) show the coordinate system.	Winter 2004/ 2005	\$2  For public education activities and signs.
High	High	High	2. Franklin County's Subdivision and Building Code Ordinances need to be revised to address fire protection and prevention.	<u>Goal 2:</u> Develop changes to the Franklin County Subdivision Ordinance and Building Code ordinance to address fire protection and prevention for new developments and construction. Utilizing standard Fire Protection Guidelines for Residential Development as identified in NFPA 1144, Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire, 2002 edition. 1. Develop Franklin County Ordinances to modify the existing Subdivision Ordinance and Building permit Ordinance to provide for Fire Protection as identified in NFPA 1144, 2002 edition. 2. Work with the County Planning & Zoning Commission for approval of the ordinance changes. 3. Work with the County Commissioners for approval of the ordinance changes.	Winter 2004/ 2005	\$7  Consultant & Public Hearings
High	High	Med	3. Franklin County has limited sources of water for fighting wildland fires and many of those sources are vulnerable to disruption of service in the event of a wildland fire.	<u>Goal 3:</u> Provide additional sources of water at strategic locations throughout Franklin County and means of supplementing or replacing service in the event of disruption. 1. Locate (using GPS) and document (type of source and reliability) potential water sources available at farms and homes in the County, including potential water drafting sites. Update annually and provide to organizations and agencies conducting fire suppression operations in the County. 2. Purchase and strategically locate four (4) mobile emergency power generators to power local water sources in the event of power loss. 3. Locate and place "Dry Hydrants" along strategic creeks in the Cub	2005 & Annually	\$10.8

Hazard			Mitigation Strategies for Goal Implementation			
Rating			Description	Goals and Action Items	Target Date	\$ Costs Thousand
Life	Prop	Res				
				River and Maple Creek and Mink Creek areas where domestic water sources are not available. 4. Contact Power transmission companies to provide fire protection around their wood power poles.		
Med	High	Med	<b>4. Franklin County has limited fire station locations and equipment that result in poor response times to fires in outlying portions of the County.</b>	<b><u>Goal 4:</u> Provide Franklin County Fire District with facility improvements and equipment as identified and improve coverage in areas where facilities and equipment are currently lacking.</b> 1. Locate scattered satellite buildings, with equipment caches, to provide quicker response near the City of Franklin. 2. Locate scattered satellite buildings, with equipment caches, to provide quicker response near the City of Dayton. 3. Locate scattered satellite buildings, with equipment caches, to provide quicker response in Northern Franklin County. 4. Investigate a joint venture with Caribou County for a fire station in the Thatcher Area	Spring 2007	\$350 & \$140 each
Med	High	Med	<b>5. Franklin County has numerous county roads, infrastructure, communication sites, developments and communities that require hazardous fuels reduction (HFR).</b>	<b><u>Goal 5:</u> Reduce identified hazardous fuels buildup in high-risk areas on a countywide scale.</b> 1. A specific hazardous fuels assessment, with specific recommendations for mitigation measures, must be conducted in the Franklin County areas described below. Each area identified will have to be assessed by someone, or a group of individuals, who are familiar with the area, who can prioritize the risks, and suggest the correct mitigation required. The type of fuels manipulation that can be incorporated into the areas described might include prescribed fire, thinning and liming, slash piling and burning, chipping, mowing, disking, spraying on the type of fuel. 2. Seek Federal and State grants to fund the fuels assessment. 3. Seek grants, or work cooperatively with the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and utility companies to conduct the necessary fuels reduction activities.	Annually	\$80
High	High	Low	<b>6. Franklin County lacks defensible space, fire resistant building materials, and adequate bridges in some developments and at private homes.</b>	<b><u>Goal 6:</u> Create defensible space standards for existing homeowners and developments and utilize standard Fire Protection Guidelines for Residential Development as identified in NFPA 1144, Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire, 2002 edition. Implementation of these standards will be by voluntary compliance and required construction standards for re-roofing structures. (See Goal 2.)</b>	Annually	\$20

Hazard			Mitigation Strategies for Goal Implementation			
Rating			Description	Goals and Action Items	Target Date	\$ Costs Thousand
Life	Prop	Res				
				1. Implement building codes to address fire hazards (e.g., specifying building materials for roofs, siding, access requirements for fire fighting equipment, water supply needs, etc.) 2. Develop and adopt revisions to the building code ordinance that requires all new roofs to be of fire retardant material as required by NFPA.		
Med	Med	Med	<b>7. Franklin County's volunteer fire department is having difficulty meeting standards or requirements pertaining to: training, PPE, communications, equipment, apparatus and facilities.</b>	<b><u>Goal 7:</u> Provide Franklin County Fire District personnel with required training, communications, PPE, apparatus, facility improvements and equipment as identified.</b> 1. Acquire current NFPA Testing Manuals & Workbooks. 2. Acquire a second Pumper/Tender truck for Fire Station 1. 3. Improve County grant writing success by training an individual to serve as a County Grant Writer and develop a Grant Resource Library Specific to EMS/Fire. 4. Provide wildland fire training opportunities (including use of computer-based training) to FCFD and interested citizens. Coordinate with USFS/BLM for wildfire training and utilize the BLM Rural Fire Assistance program.	Spring 2006	\$3.7 Hardware & Software  \$250 Equip
Med	Med	Med	<b>8. Franklin County citizens have had limited Firewise education, information and awareness with regards to wildland fire.</b>	<b><u>Goal 8:</u> Gain community or development participation in Firewise activities including education and information distribution.</b> 1. Staff the FCFD with a part time person who would also coordinate and conduct education information training.	Annually	\$50
Med	Med	Med	<b>9. Franklin County and Forest Service Roads lack turnouts for emergency vehicles to pass slower vehicles and weight limits are not posted on all bridges.</b>	<b><u>Goal 9:</u> Work with the road agencies to construct vehicle turnouts where needed and install weight limit signs on bridges.</b> 1. Identify locations where vehicle turnouts and weight limit signs are needed.	2005	Unknown
Low	Med	Low	<b>10. Franklin County has no comprehensive inventory of homes and values at risk in the event of a wildland fire.</b>	<b><u>Goal 10:</u> Develop a comprehensive inventory of homes and provide the inventory to dispatchers and FCFD in times of emergency response.</b> 1. Locate (using GPS) and document (type of source and reliability) all structures in County. Update annually and provide to organizations and	Annually	\$5 Hardware & Software  Unknown -

Hazard			Mitigation Strategies for Goal Implementation			
Rating			Description	Goals and Action Items	Target Date	\$ Costs Thousand
Life	Prop	Res				
				agencies conducting fire suppression operations in the County.		volunteers
Low	Med	Low	11. Franklin County has a large amount of land in the CRP increasing fuel loads beyond what would normally occur on tilled farmland.	<b><u>Goal 11:</u> Apply fuels treatment - hand, mechanical, prescribed fire or combination of treatments to reduce fuels loads on CRP land.</b> 1. Develop a hazardous fuels reduction plan for perimeters of CRP fields or around buildings to create firebreaks that will reduce the potential threat from a wildfire.	2006	Unknown